

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

The July-August 1975 issue of the Bulletin contained on Page 4, a short note stating that Dr. Tilles had sent in a photo of a French artist's proof which has an "ATP" Perfin at the bottom. Can anyone provide information as to why this proof would be Perfinned?

This question can be answered best by another question: "Can anyone provide information as to why the pierced letters 'ATP' should be called a Perfin?"

This item is quite definitely not even a stamp! Just because we come up with a bit of paper with initials cut in it, makes no reason why we should dignify it by calling it a Perfin. Dr. Tilles should familiarize himself with the definition which describes just what constitutes a Perfin.

"A Perfin is a stamp which has been perforated with initials or insigniae for the purpose of discouraging theft or misuse. Such perforations must not cancel, change the value, or change the purpose for which the stamp was issued."

If there is any disagreement on this topic, it should be referred to our foreign Perfin catalog editor, Mrs. Barbara Kloss.

Sincerely,

David Stump

(Editor's note: Barbara Kloss also responded on this subject and questions whether the item should be called a Perfin. Barbara considers it a security endorsement and she offers the information that the perforated initials "ATP" represent the name of the printers, Atelier de Fabrication des Timbres-Poste.)